

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Driscoll-Astoria No. 1 Access Road Maintenance

PP&A No.: 3593

Project Manager: Richard Ross – Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

Location: Clatsop County, Oregon

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
08N	08W	24	Clatsop, OR	PRIVATE

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance along the access road for the Driscoll-Astoria No. 1 Transmission Line between Structures 12/6 and 12/7. Access road work would include: adding three drain dips and two landings; replacing two gates; performing minor blading, shaping, grading and adding rock (improvements) to approx. 700 feet of existing serviceable access and structure spur roads; and reconstructing approximately 200 feet of road. General equipment used for this type of project includes graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Kevin George

Kevin George – EPI-4

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *January 23, 2017*

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

Proposed Action: Driscoll-Astoria No. 1 Access Road Maintenance

Project Area Description

Proposed maintenance activities are located in a segment of access road for the Driscoll-Astoria No. 1 Transmission Line, between structures 12/6 and 12/7, approximately 10 miles east of Astoria, OR, and 1.5 miles south of the Columbia River. There are no National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands that intersect the project area – the nearest mapped wetland is mapped 250 feet south of the project area. Elevation (above mean sea level) within the project area ranges from approximately 142 to 203 feet with an average elevation of 170 feet. The project area is privately owned and includes natural land cover. Land use in the surrounding area includes forestland, agriculture, and scattered, rural development.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources review was conducted by Historical Research Associates October 9, 2016; OR SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination was issued January 10, 2017. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederates Tribes of Siletz Indians were consulted – no response.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within the existing road prisms and at new landing installations. Minimal soil disturbance is proposed; any soil cut from the landing locations would be sidecast in thin layers so growth of existing vegetation would not be inhibited. Excess soils shall not be sidecast into wetlands, drainage ditches, or water bodies. Erosion control measures would be used. Stabilization would include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species present; road improvements would be limited to the existing road prism and to the new landings. Disturbed areas would be reseeded.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitat present; existing road prism and surrounding area under transmission line is low-quality habitat.		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**
(including federal/state special-status
species and ESUs)



Explanation: No culvert replacement, installation, or cleaning would occur.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands were identified in the project disturbance areas.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Groundwater would not be affected by proposed road improvement activities; no new groundwater wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would not exceed existing road fill.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: All proposed road improvements would occur within the footprints of the existing roads or transmission line and are consistent with existing land use; no specially designated areas are located within the project area.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All improvements will be at ground level and are limited to existing road prisms and the area immediately surrounding the transmission lines.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected for a short duration due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise is expected for a short duration from road improvement activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields would result from the project.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project is located entirely on private land. No public land agencies were contacted. Notification letters that construction would occur would be sent to all landowners prior to work.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: */s/ Kevin George*
Kevin George – EPI-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: *January 23, 2017*